

Application No. 09/989,024  
Supplemental Reply to Office Action of May 8, 2003

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

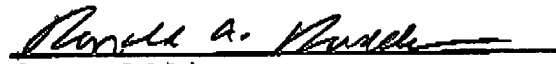
Claims 1-12, 18-21, and 24-25 are presently active; Claims 1-4, 9-10, and 18-20 having been presently amended, Claims 13, 22, and 23 having been canceled without prejudice by the present amendment, and Claims 14-17 having been previously canceled.

This supplemental amendment is submitted in response to discussions with Examiner Rao on February 11, 2004 to clarify several matters raised by Examiner Rao during his examination of this application in view of the response filed on November 10, 2003. Examiner Rao indicated during these discussions that such changes would place this application in a condition for allowance.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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